



Softball season takes field

Armor teams win in National, American League play
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Fort Riley Post

Culture steps to dance beat

Cambodian company performs during post observance
Page 13



Friday, May 26, 2006

America's Warfighting Center

Vol. 49, No. 21

Bulletin:

Post CG to get new position

The Army chief of staff has announced Maj. Gen. Dennis E. Hardy, commanding general, 24th Infantry Division (Mech) and Fort Riley, will become deputy commanding general, Third U.S. Army, with duty as deputy commanding general, Coalition Forces Land Component Command, Camp Doha, Kuwait.

Around the Army

Fort Rucker:

The Army Flier reported May 24 that Firefighters from Company A, Firefighting Activity, 1st Battalion, 210th Aviation Regiment, competed in a quarterly skills challenge May 12 in preparation for a regional and national event.

Five firefighters from Fort Rucker were scheduled to attend the Beach Blowout Combat Challenge, Florida Southern Regional, at Deerfield Beach, Fla., May 19-20. Staff Sgt. Nick Beach, platoon sergeant, Directorate of Public Safety, said that military firefighters at Fort Rucker have held the Alabama state champion title for the Firefighter Combat Challenge since 2003.

For more on this story and other Fort Rucker, Ala., news, visit www.armyflier.com/ on the Web.

Fort Knox:

The Turret reported May 18 that those who like crossing the border to Mexico or Canada, or cruising on luxury liners because those travel plans don't require a passport, will need passports for such travel next year.

Effective Jan. 1, 2007, persons traveling by air or sea to Canada, Mexico, Central and South America, the Caribbean and Bermuda will need a passport.

Beginning Jan. 1, 2008, the requirement extends to all land-border crossings, according to the U.S. Department of State.

In preparation for the change, the Fort Knox Post Office would extend its hours of operation May 20 to host a "Travel Fair" to promote its passport application service.

This is a new service offered at the post office.

For more on this story and other Fort Knox, Ky., news, visit www.thenevnesenterprise.com/turret/ on the Web.

Fort Monroe:

The Casemate reported May 12 that more than 350 Soldiers and government civilians were introduced to the Electronic Military Evaluation Management System during a special training session.

The new evaluation system eliminates the "hands on" processing requirements associated with the long-used paper forms found in FormFlow.

Those forms are typically carried and manually signed by the rated Soldier and rating officials and then mailed to the Human Resources Command.

For more on this story and other Fort Monroe, Va., news, visit www.monroe.army.mil/casemate/ on the Web.

War 'birds' land



Three of the first nine Apache helicopters that will be part of the new combat aviation brigade at Fort Riley land at Marshall Army Airfield May 22. Nine aircraft arrived that day, the first of more than 100 helicopters that will form the new brigade.

New brigade's first Apaches arrive

By Anna Staatz
The Daily Union

It only took a moment for the first five Apache helicopters to appear at the top of a hill just south of Fort Riley's Marshall Army Airfield, but the significance was huge for Fort Riley and the surrounding area.

"These airplanes were the first of nine helicopters that arrived May 22 at Fort Riley as part of the 1st Infantry Division's Combat Aviation Brigade. When the brigade is full strength sometime this fall, it will fly approximately 110 helicopters.

"These airplanes are the core of the attack brigade," said Lt. Col. Russ Stinger, who flew one of the "birds" in from Fort Campbell, Ky. "This is a great thing for the 1st Inf. Div. and a great thing for Kansas."

Stinger said the flight from Fort

For more photos, see page 2

Campbell took about five hours and included a fuel stop.

Col. Bob Johnson, brigade commander, said the remaining 15 Apache helicopters due to arrive at Fort Riley will arrive about two per month until they are all at the post.

Besides the Apaches, the combat aviation brigade will be comprised of air ambulance Black Hawks, other Black Hawks, Kiowas and Chinooks. Brigade leaders expect the rest of the Black Hawk helicopters to begin arriving in early June and the Chinooks in September.

The helicopters are arriving from several locations, including Fort Campbell, Germany and Fort Carson, Colo.

The aviation brigade will bring about 2,700 Soldiers to Fort Riley. It will also bring a host of improvements to Marshall Army Airfield.

Johnson said improvements to the airfield will include an updated runway, the construction of three new hangars, a dining facility, a motor pool complex and a flight operations building.

The improvements will total about \$500 million, Johnson said, and will take about five years to complete.

Johnson said the aviation brigade forming at Fort Riley is a new kind of aviation brigade, different from the aviation unit that left post around 1996.

"Fort Riley's never had a new brigade," Johnson said. "The old brigade had about half the aircraft this one has."

Editor's note: This story appeared in the May 23 issue of The Daily Union in Junction City, Kan. It is reprinted with permission of Editor and General Manager Tom Throne.



Members of the surrounding community prepare to welcome crews of Apache helicopters arriving on post May 22.

Engineers prepare

Training emphasizes deployment missions

Editor's note: The 1st Engineer Battalion, 1st Brigade, is one of 12 Fort Riley units alerted to deploy in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom. The battalion is scheduled to deploy in the first of a series telling what a battalion does to get ready for such a deployment, such as live-fire field exercises and new equipment training. The series also will touch on how the Soldiers are preparing psychologically for war through programs such as long-distance relationship training for troops and their significant others.

By Amanda Kim Stairrett
Staff writer

Fort Riley's 1st Engineer Battalion, 1st Brigade, was the Army's first active engineer battalion to evolve into a modular unit. Because of that, it will be the first combat effective battalion to deploy, said Lt. Col. David Theisen, battalion commander.

On March 15, Companies A, B and C ceased their colors and reflagged under new designations. Co. A reactivated as the 111th Sapper Company, Co. B reactivated as the 41st Mobility Augmenta-



Sgt. Daniel Lowrey checks the chambers of 72nd Mobility Augmentation Co. Soldiers' weapons after they fired at targets on the MPRC May 19. The 1st Eng. Bn. Soldiers were participating in a live-fire route clearance mission.

tion Company, Co. C reactivated as the 72nd Mobility Augmentation Company. A Forward Support Company also was created.

The change came as part of the Corps of Engineers' restructuring plan for engineer forces across the U.S. Army, making it a "plug and play" force tailoring to the Army's mission, Theisen said in March. The battalion was scheduled to convert to a modular unit in fiscal

year 2008, but that changed because the Army wanted to increase its engineer capability sooner.

"I am very proud of this organization," Theisen said. "We have transformed and trained for deployment better and faster than any other unit that has gone through transformation."

See Engineers, Page 6

VA urges caution after data stolen

Vet information included 26.5M names, SS numbers

By Samantha L. Quigley
AFPS

WASHINGTON — Veterans Affairs officials announced May 22 the theft of personal information on up to 26.5 million veterans. However, VA Secretary R. James Nicholson stressed there's no indication the information is being used for purposes of fraud.

"We at the VA have recently learned that an employee here, a data analyst, took home a considerable amount of electronic data from the VA, which he was not authorized to do," Nicholson said. "His home was burglarized, and this data was stolen."

The compromised data includes names, Social Security numbers and birthdates of veterans separating from the military since 1975, he said. The information also may have included data on veterans who separated before 1975 but who submitted a claim for VA benefits after that date.

No medical or financial information was compromised, though the files might have contained numeric disability ratings

in some cases, Nicholson added. A statement issued by the department indicated that spousal information also might have been compromised in some cases.

"There is no indication that any use is being made of this data or even that (the thieves) know they have it," Nicholson said.

Exercising what the secretary called "an abundance of caution," the department is working through a number of channels, including the news media, to make veterans aware of the situation. Individual notification letters also will be mailed to veterans.

More information available

The department is providing more information through the www.firstgov.gov Web site and call centers that can be reached at (800) 333-4636. The call centers will be able to handle more than 250,000 calls a day.

See ID theft, Page 3





Post, Army news briefly

Vets Alliance hosts program

The Geary County Veterans Alliance's Memorial Day program will begin at 11 a.m. May 29 in the Junction City Municipal Building, 700 N. Jefferson St.

The Junction City Community Band will perform and Master Sgt. Kevin Walker of 1st Battalion, 34th Armor, will be the keynote speaker.

Post exceeds donor goal

Fort Riley donors responded in superior fashion to the call for blood May 16-17. The Red Cross' goal was for 45 pints each day. Donors contributed 67 pints May 16 and another 83 pints May 17 to exceed the goal by 60 pints.

Military police to carry torch

Members of the 97th Military Police Battalion will participate in the 25th annual Kansas Law Enforcement Torch Run May 31 to benefit Special Olympics.

Members of Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, 116th Military Police Company and 977th Military Police Company will carry the torch across post after receiving it from Riley County officers at the Ogden gate. They will pass the torch to Junction City officers at the Grant Avenue gate.

The MPs are selling long- and short-sleeved T-shirts for \$15 to raise money for Special Olympics. Anyone interested in buying a T-shirt should call Office Chris Blodgett at 239-8348.



Apache helicopter crews prepare to exit their aircraft soon after they touched down on Fort Riley's Marshall Army Airfield May 22. *Post/Stairrett*

Combat aviation brigade to revive airfield activity



Sgt. David Muir (top) covers the nose of an Apache helicopter as Spc. Shawn Syverson (left) and Spc. John Waters (right) help tie it down May 22. Five of the aircraft, which are part of Fort Riley's new combat aviation brigade, arrived about 3 p.m. and four more arrived later that afternoon. *Post/Stairrett*



Kansas news media reps interview Lt. Col. Russ Stinger, one of the Apache pilots, about the aircraft, the flight to Marshall Army airfield and the arrival of the new combat aviation brigade on post. *PAO/Blackman*

DICK EDWARDS HYUNDAI
5 x 10.5"
Black only
6x10.5 Dick Ed Hyundai





ID theft continued from page 1

"The most important priority that I have right now is to get the word out to our veterans and get them alerted and aware of this possibility," Nicholson said.

The department also is encouraging veterans to watch their financial accounts carefully for any signs of fraud or identity theft.

If suspicious activity is detected, veterans should contact the fraud department of one of the three major credit bureaus: Equifax, Experian or TransUnion.

Credit bureaus alerted

Nichols said the Federal Trade Commission has alerted credit bureaus of a potential increase in

requests for fraud alerts and for requests for credit reports.

Any accounts that have been tampered with or opened fraudulently should be closed, and the veteran should file a report with local police or the police in the community where the identity theft took place.

Those who suspect identity theft also are encouraged to contact the Federal Trade Commission via its identity-theft hotline at (877) 438-4338 or through its Web site.

There is no indication when the career employee removed the information from his office, but the data was stolen when his home was burglarized sometime this month, Nicholson said.

He declined to identify the

employee or where he lives but said law enforcement officials reported several burglaries in the area and they do not believe the stolen information was targeted.

Employee placed on admin leave

"The employee has been placed on administrative leave pending the outcome of a full-scale investigation," Nicholson said. All appropriate law enforcement agencies, including the FBI and the Veterans Affairs Department's Inspector General, are participating in the investigation.

Members of the President's Identity Theft Task Force were to meet May 22 to coordinate a com-

prehensive response, recommend ways to further protect affected veterans, and increase safeguards to prevent the reoccurrence of such incidents, Nicholson said.

VA officials also moved up the date by which all department employees must complete the "VA Cyber Security Awareness Training Course" and the "General Employee Privacy Awareness Course." Both must be completed by June 30.

Additionally, Veterans Affairs will immediately begin conducting a review of all current positions requiring access to sensitive information.

All employees requiring access to such data will undergo updated law enforcement and background checks.

BUDGETBLINDS OF MID-AMERICA
2 x 2"
Black Only
2x2 Budget Blinds

CANDLEWOOD HEALTH MART PHARMAC
2 x 2"
Black Only
2x2 Candlewood Health Mart

FIRST SOUTHERN BAPTIST
2 x 2"
Black Only
2x2 1st. South Baptist

SCREEN MACHINE
2 x 2"
Black Only
2x2 Screen Machine May TF

FIRST ASSEMBLY OF GOD-MANHATTA
2 x 4"
Black Only
2x4 First Assembly/God

ACADEMY CARS
4 x 2"
Black Only
4x2 Academy Cars

DAILY UNION
6 x 12.5"
Black Only
AUSAPOSTAD





Proud Americans

U.S. Sen. Richard Lugar (R-Ind.) administers the oath of office at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway on Bump Day/Armed Forces Day to 50 enlistees representing all branches of the armed forces at a morning ceremony set up as part of the speedway's celebration of Armed Forces Day.

Post/Skidmore

Army launches online weight loss program

By Elaine Wilson
Army News Service

FORT SAM HOUSTON, Texas – Soldiers can now participate in the Army's weight management program from the comfort of their own home.

The Army has launched an online version of "Weigh to Stay" to improve the program's accessibility and convenience for Soldiers, families and retirees.

"The site has been hugely successful," said Lt. Col. Danny Jaghab, site creator and nutrition staff officer for the Directorate of Health Promotion and Wellness, U.S. Center for Health Promotion and Preventive Medicine at Aberdeen Proving Ground, Md. "We recently had 23,000 hits, the most any medical page has received on (Army Knowledge Online) other than the 'myMedical' page."

The "Weigh to Stay" program is an Army requirement for Soldiers who have been "flagged" for weight. It comprises three one-hour sessions and three half-hour follow-up sessions with a dietitian.

Before the online program,

Want more information?

For more information or to register for the "Weigh to Stay" Web site, call Lt. Col. Danny Jaghab at (410) 436-8856 or DSN 584-8856 or send e-mail to danny.jaghab@apg.amedd.army.mil.

reserve and active duty Soldiers had to attend sessions in person. While the requirement wasn't generally a problem for the active duty Soldier, who has easier access to dietitians than reserve Soldiers do, it often created headaches for reservists and their leadership.

"Reservists have to take time off from their civilian jobs and, in some cases, travel a distance to attend a session with a dietitian," Jaghab said. "As a result, the program's return rates were poor for reserve and Guard members."

Hoping to remedy the problem and improve the overall health of reserve members, Army leader-

ship asked Jaghab to find a solution.

Jaghab turned to the Internet for inspiration: "It made sense; people would be able to do the program from home at any time."

The online site duplicates the standard version, offering the same number of sessions and content, which includes nutrition basics and myths, supplement use, menu planning, behavior modification and the importance of exercise. The only difference is that participants attend sessions online rather than in-person.

"You sign up, go online and pick a class," Jaghab said. "Then, at the scheduled time, you log on and participate in a virtual class."

Participants can interact with other students and the instructor, as well as view slides and a participant list.

The site includes links to health and weight loss information and special features.

The site's success prompted Army officials to extend the online program to active duty Soldiers, family members and retirees, but only reserve Soldiers are able to forego the traditional program for the online one.

See the Fort Riley Post for the past four years on line at www.riley.army in the Post Online Archives folder.

LEES WESTERN WEAR
2 x 3"
Black Only
2x3 Lee's Mem Day

MILITARY OUTLET
2 x 3.5"
Black Only
2x3.5 Military Outlet May TF

CRUMS
2 x 3.5"
Black Only
2x3.5 Crums May TF

BRIGGS
3 x 10.5"
Black Only
3x10.5 B&W #135 SuperCenter

CHARTER COMMUNICATIONS- THAYER
3 x 10.5"
Black Only
3x10.5 Charter #7172





Commentary

Riley Roundtable

This week's question:

If you could change one thing at Fort Riley, what would that be and why should it be changed?



"Out towards the 4th (Infantry Combat) Brigade area, I'd start making room for more parking because the units are really close together."

Staff Sgt. Darryl Jewell Jr.
Co. B, 2nd Battalion, 16th Infantry



"I really have no complaints. I've lived here six weeks and am really looking forward to checking out the golf course."

Artina Vincent
Spouse of 4th Brigade
Special Troops Battalion Soldier
AAFES merchandiser



"I'd like to see more variety in the PX. I wish it were bigger with more choices in the food court."

Erica Frasier
Spouse of 1st Maintenance Company
Soldier



"I'd expand the food court. It's really crowded in here. Everything you need to do or get is here; it just needs to be bigger."

Staff Sgt. Dave Grass
35th Engineers
Missouri National Guard



"It's hard when you're new to post and you have a (motorcycle) but you can't ride it on post to take the course to get the right certification because you need the documents to get onto Fort Riley. We had to take the bike in the back of a truck to the course. It's just not a simple, easy process."

Staff Sgt. Markelle Tutman
2nd Battalion, 32nd Field Artillery

Letters to the editor expressing personal opinions may be e-mailed to the editor at mike.heronemus@riley.army.mil. Letters must contain no libelous statements or personal accusations. Content may be edited to fit space on the comment page but will not be edited to change the writer's point of view. All letters must include the writer's full name and a telephone number where he or she can be contacted to clarify points in the letter.

Matter of tradition, deserved honor Mission Impossible: Memorial Day

By Caroline Peabody
Military Family Network

It's not a scheduled immigration protest; it's not a new X-box release date; it's not even a Tom Cruise blockbuster weekend. It's Memorial Day ... and it's almost forgotten.

Maybe if we put some fancy, hip graphics together, make a hip-hop song about it, use scary political language to infuriate the masses or create a movie tie-in with a Podcast teaser, we can rally the public to offer time to remember our nation's fallen heroes and the families they left behind.

Here is your mission, if you choose to accept it: Help bring meaning back to Memorial Day. You are not Ethan Hunt, but rather Mr. or Ms. America on just as unlikely a mission to send a message of hope to our Soldiers and their families. You are being tasked to honor them and pay tribute to their comrades who have paid the ultimate price.

Your assignment is to ignore the white sales, keep moving past the electronic "blow outs" and, by all means, wait a day or two before buying your new SUV.

Shortly after the Civil War, Gen. John A. Logan, who headed an organization of Union veterans called the Grand Army of the Republic, issued a general order designating a day "for the purpose of strewing with flowers, or otherwise decorating the graves of comrades who died in defense of their country during the late rebellion, and whose bodies now lie in almost every city, village, and hamlet churchyard in the land. Let no vandalism of avarice or neglect, no ravages of time testify to the present or to the coming generations that we have forgotten as a people the cost of a free and undivided republic."

During the first observance of what was then termed Decoration Day, the graves of Union and Confederate Soldiers in Arlington were adorned with flowers as the thousands of participants said prayers and sang hymns. After

World War I, the national Decoration Day became Memorial Day. The commemoration was expanded to include those who died in all U.S. wars.

A few years ago, Congress passed the National Moment of Remembrance Act. It asked Americans to pause for one minute at 3 p.m. local time and think about those who have made the ultimate sacrifice.

... minute. Is it so much to ask of America to spend a day in remembrance doing acts of service, maybe supporting a military charity or visiting a wounded veteran? Are we all suffering from ADHD? Can't we focus for even an hour to volunteer time to place flowers on a hero's grave?

Memorial Day is a National Day of Mourning and Remembrance for the sons and daughters, mothers, fathers, sisters and brothers who have died so we may live and enjoy the freedom, democracy and even the capitalism that retail compa-

nies have used to make profit upon the memories of our dead.

Do we need a Podcast to make it real? Do we need a protest? Do we need to market Memorial Day to make it hip to remember?

How can we accomplish this mission and make it meaningful to our de-sensitized society?

The question to Americans is this: Do you accept your mission, this mission

Impossible, to hold in reverence this one day where we pay tribute to our fallen heroes? If you reach for your wallet on Memorial Day to pay for some great deal, you are not just buying that product at a discount; you are discounting the sacrifices of hundreds of thousands of Soldiers who have died in creating the foundation of your freedom.

Will you remember them or will you sell them out? Remember our fallen on Memorial Day. If you don't, Mr. And Ms. America, don't worry about getting rid of this mission notice, the message has already been destroyed.

Chaplain's view

All have capacity to change for better

By Chap. Glenn Palmer
2nd Bn., 70th Armor

I have been doing a lot of counseling lately with Soldiers back from their second combat tour to Iraq in less than three years and experiencing forms of Combat Stress Response/Temporary Adjustment Disorder. Much of what they are experiencing is a normal response to an abnormal situation. I know because I've experienced it myself.

CSR/TAD tends to peak three to six months after redeploying and should drop dramatically after the six-month mark. After 3 1/2 months at home, I am finally sleeping a little better and the nightmares are less frequent. It all reminds me of a little story:

One day a fella, tired of his teenager complaining about life, takes him into the kitchen, fills three pots with water, adds carrots to one pot, an egg to another and coffee beans to a third. The

father turns the heat under them on high and lets them boil.

After about half an hour, he removes the carrots, egg and coffee beans from the pots and puts them on plates. He asks the teenager what he has learned. The teenager has no clue.

The father explains that each foodstuff has been exposed to the same challenge: boiling water. The carrot went in sturdy but turned to mush. The egg went in fragile but turned hard. The coffee beans, however, changed the hot water around them, producing a pleasing and attractive aroma.

Many of us have been exposed to the "boiling water" of war and separation and homesickness that goes with that. We can't change what has happened to us or how we feel about it or how it affects us.

We can choose how we respond to it. We can turn to mush, become hardened and bitter or because God takes what men intend for evil and turns it to

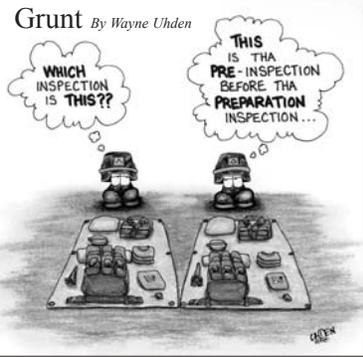
good, we can become the coffee bean that has a "better not bitter," a positive and life-giving fragrance, influence and impact on others.

As we go our separate ways so often in the Army, and as many of you make your way back into civilian life, I would share with you that we do have a choice. We can become "better not bitter" in spite of what we've been through by going to and by praying to God, the one who heals and

refreshes and transforms death into life, chaos into order and despair into hope.

We can become "better not bitter" by honoring those who came before us, by making wise and moral, ethical, mature and life-affirming decisions.

We become "better not bitter" by taking care of ourselves spiritually, physically and emotionally, by offering and asking for forgiveness, by sharing with others and by serving others.



Letter to the editor Just to correct some facts

Your newspaper article entitled "Online Education: Good Idea or Not?" was carefully researched and written. I believe the article paints a fair and accurate picture of the ALS Online program and Fort Riley's response. I write to correct a factual misstatement made by Mark Jones, the president of ALS Online. Mr. Jones claims that he knows of only one person who was charged 19.5 percent interest on the \$1,649 on-line study program. In fact, the Fort Riley Legal Assistance Office has six open files where Soldiers or family members are still being charged 19.5 percent interest in

violation of Kansas law. Mr. Jones has been aware of these individuals since Feb. 10, 2006, when he received a copy of the complaint I sent to the Kansas Attorney General.

The attorneys who work for the Fort Riley Legal Assistance Office seek to prevent legal problems before they arise. Soldiers and family members are always welcome to come to Patton Hall, Building 200, to meet with a JAG attorney free of charge. Call 239-3117 for an appointment.

Capt. Nick Anderson
Legal Assistance Attorney

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	Poor	Fair	Good
Interesting articles	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Valuable information	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mix of unit, community news	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Photo coverage of events	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sports coverage	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Entertainment coverage	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Travel coverage	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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What are your concerns or suggestions for improvement?

Your name (optional) and phone number (if you would like to talk about your ideas): _____

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Publisher-Maj. Gen. Dennis Hardy
Public Affairs Officer-Lt. Col. Christian Kubik
Command Information Officer-Gary Skidmore
Printer-John G. Montgomery
Fort Riley Editorial Staff
Editor-Mike Heronemus
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Circulation 8,800 copies each week
By mail \$20 per year
A licensed newspaper member of the Junction City and Manhattan chambers of commerce



Engineers

continued from page 1

The 1st Eng. Bn. has two sister units: the 20th Engineer Battalion at Fort Hood, Texas, and 19th Engineer Battalion at Fort Knox, Ky. The 20th is a combat effects unit like the 1st Engineers at Fort Riley. The 19th is a construction effects unit, Theisen said.

The March restructuring made 1st Eng. Bn. more capable and flexible. Instead of serving as a brigade asset, it became a corps asset, almost tripling its maintenance and logistics capabilities and increasing the number of its combat engineers by more than 25 percent.

The battalion can operate independently throughout a corps. Before, it required significant logistical and maintenance support from brigade organizations. The Field Support Company allows Soldiers to conduct a higher level of maintenance, tripling the number of mechanics the battalion previously was authorized, Theisen said.

Companies now have organic maintenance elements as well, something they didn't have before.

Sgt. Justin Casson, a 31-year-old combat engineer in the 72nd Augmentation Company, said the reorganization changed the makeup of his company from 1st, 2nd and 3rd Platoons to 1st, 2nd and counter mobility platoons. He became a member of the counter mobility platoon.

"(We are our) own company now and don't have to rely on the battalion. Everything's done at our level. Now we don't have interference and don't have to worry about going to the battalion for something," he said May 19 during a battalion training exercise at the Multi-Purpose Range Complex at Fort Riley.

The battalion has five separate companies, he said, but each company stands alone and "they do what they have to do."

Casson's and other combat engineers' jobs are to provide route reconnaissance, route clearance and cache searches. The 72nd is a route clearance company, and its Soldiers make sure areas are clear of improvised explosive devices "so everybody



Post/Stairrett

Soldiers in the 1st and 2nd Platoons of the 1st Eng. Bn.'s 72nd Mobility Augmentation Co., fire live rounds downrange during a route clearance mission May 19 at the Multi-Purpose Range Complex. The battalion is scheduled to deploy in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom this fall.

else can travel the same routes without having to worry about getting blown up or shot at."

Since the battalion became a corps asset, its area of operations will increase, too. The entire battalion will deploy, Theisen said, but it will have a much larger area of operation, working over a division's area of operations in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

This work consists of full spectrum engineer operations and assured mobility missions, which includes assessments of infrastructure, base upgrades, base and infrastructure and route clearance.

Changing the battalion's composition also means it is receiving new Soldiers to fill the needed roles. Casson said his company had an influx of new Soldiers, and they needed a chance to get their feet on the ground before the deployment so they could "understand what happens; what things could happen."

This will be Casson's second deployment, something he is and

isn't looking forward to – his wife is pregnant and their baby is due in September.

Battalion leaders started focusing on individual training during the transformation in March and have now begun collective training from the team to battalion level.

That preparation will culminate in a mission readiness exercise at the National Training Center at Fort Irwin, Calif.

Until then, 1st Eng. Bn. Soldiers are busy training a little closer to home. They spent May 15-25 at Fort Riley's MPRC, revolving through three training exercises: convoys, live-fire route clearances and support services.

The battalion usually trains at Range 18, Theisen said, so occupying the MPRC for 10 days gave this field training exercise more significance to the Soldiers. The stay also gave the event more of a deployed feeling, much like training missions to the Joint Read-

iness Training Center at Fort Polk, La., said Maj. Jose Aguilar, battalion executive officer.

"These guys look forward to getting out here next to their buddies and firing their weapons," he said, while observing a live-fire route clearance mission from his "Humvee".

Spe. Tyrone Cleveland, 1st platoon, 72nd Augmentation Co., was one of the Soldiers Aguilar observed during the May 19 live-fire. The training will ensure that the Soldiers know what they're doing when they deploy, Cleveland said. But the isolated training at the MPRC also helped build camaraderie between the Soldiers.

"We're going to war with these same guys. Right now we're just bonding," he said.

Spe. David Roberts, a 20-year-old combat engineer in the 72nd Mobility Augmentation Co.'s counter mobility platoon, was glad to be back training with his platoon because he has been attending school at Fort Leonard Wood, Mo.

"(It's) always nice to fire off a few rounds. Blanks get a little boring after a while, so it's good to actually throw some rounds downrange. It's definitely something to look forward to," he said May 19 while standing in his company barracks at the MPRC.

Roberts, Casson and other Soldiers in the counter mobility platoon spent their first three days in the support services rotation of the training, serving as oppositional forces during convoy training.

The counter mobility platoon got to carry out live-fire route clearance training the next day.

To prepare for their roles in the upcoming deployments, company commanders led the training for their Soldiers.

The battalion's staff, including Theisen and Aguilar, simply provided resources and guidance. The exercise replicated how the battalion would be situated during the deployment because the companies would be spread out on different forward operating bases, Theisen said.

Pvt. Douglas Goin, 2nd Platoon, 72nd Augmentation Co., had just completed a route clearance live-fire May 19 when he said he was looking forward to the upcoming deployment. The live-fire training was the first time he had been at the MPRC and he thought his platoon did well on the range.

Goin said the live-fires gave the Soldiers a chance to test out and perfect the techniques they were training with.

"(It) makes you a little more confident in what you're doing. That's all that matters," he said.

Casson said the Soldiers have a lot to learn at the MPRC and during the upcoming NTC deployment.

"We have our work cut out for us. We just need to keep training like we do and keep setting the standard for the company," he said.

Amanda Kim Stairrett can be contacted at amanda.kim.stairrett@riley.army.mil or 239-3328.

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O'Neil takes reins of support battalion

Staff report

Maj. Michael O'Neil assumed command of 125th Forward Support Battalion, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division from Lt. Col. John Hinkley May 23.

Hinkley had commanded the 125th FSB since July 2003 when he took control of the unit while it was in Baghdad, Iraq, during Operation Iraqi Freedom. As commander, he redeployed his battalion to Iraq in April 2004.

Hinkley will become the G4 for the 24th Infantry Division (Mech).

Incoming commander O'Neil was born and raised in Duluth, Minn. He was a distinguished military graduate of the University of Colorado at Colorado Springs and was commissioned as an ordnance officer in 1989.

He later received a master of science degree in logistics management from the Florida Institute of Technology. O'Neil is a graduate of the Ordnance Officer Basic Course, Combined Logistics Offi-

cer Advanced Course, Logistics Executive Development Course and the Command and General Staff College.

O'Neil has served at the George C. Marshall European Center for Security Studies in Garmisch-Partenkirchen, Germany; Fort Carson, Colo.; Schofield Barracks, Hawaii; and Camp Henry, Korea.

He first came to Fort Riley to serve as the 24th Inf. Div. (Mech) deputy G4. He deployed to Iraq as part of OIF in June 2003 as the 3rd Brigade, 1st Armored Division, S4. He assumed a position as support operations officer for the 125th FSB in June 2004, and redeployed to Iraq in January 2005.

O'Neil's awards and decorations include two Bronze Stars, two Meritorious Service Medals, the Joint Service Commendation Medal, two Army Commendation Medals, the Air Force Commendation Medal and the Army Achievement Medal. He also wears the Air Assault Badge.

O'Neil has two children: Allison, 6, and John, 4.



Post/Marelock

75th Division Soldiers receive awards

Lt. Col. Steven Nott (left), 3rd Brigade, 75th Division (Training Support), acting commander, presents the Welcome Home Warrior-Citizen Award to Maj. Bryan D. Asher with his wife, Tammy, May 19. Asher and Maj. Thomas J. Fields, III were the first Soldiers at Fort Riley to be presented with the award, which eventually will be awarded to all Army Reserve Soldiers who served in Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom. The award consists of an encased American flag, a commemorative coin, a lapel pin set for the Soldier and spouse and a Welcome Home Warrior-Citizen Flag.

Post named Tree City USA for 19th time

Special to the Post

Fort Riley has been named a Tree City USA by the National Arbor Day Foundation to honor its commitment to community forestry.

It is the nineteenth year Fort Riley has received this national recognition, and the post has the longest unbroken record of receiving that honor among all Department of Defense installations.

The Tree City USA program is sponsored by the National Arbor Day Foundation in cooperation with the National Association of State Foresters and the USDA Forest Service.

Fort Riley met four standards to become a Tree City USA: A tree board or department, a tree care ordinance, a comprehensive community forestry program and an Arbor Day observance.

This year, the National Arbor Day Foundation celebrates its 30th anniversary of the program.

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Robert Smith of Kansas State University speaks to members of the Society for Military Historians who visited the U.S. Cavalry Association library May 19. The members were allowed to look in "granny's attic," which contains old military uniforms, headgear, saddles and other antique military items.

Historians visit Fort Riley

By Beth Bohn
Kansas State University

MANHATTAN, Kan. — The Kansas State University department of history and its Institute for Military History and 20th Century Studies joined with the Eisenhower Presidential Center in Abilene to serve as hosts of the 73rd annual meeting of the Soci-

ety for Military History May 18-21.

Part of the conference included a visit to Fort Riley's U.S. Cavalry Museum, U.S. Cavalry Association Museum and the Close Combat Tactical Trainer and a reception co-sponsored by the U.S. Cavalry Museum staff and U.S. Cavalry Association.

About 350 members of the society, which is devoted to stim-

ulating and advancing the study of military history, attended the conference. The society's membership of more than 2,300 includes many of the nation's most prominent scholars, soldiers and citizens interested in military history. Conference participants included several K-State faculty members and graduate students.

Among the featured speakers for the event was retired Air Force Gen. Richard Myers, a K-State alum and former chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, who presented "Military History and My Service to My Country."

The keynote address was given by Roger Spiller, the George C. Marshall professor emeritus at the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College at Fort Leavenworth, Kan. Spiller is the author or co-author of several noted books, including "An Instinct for War" and the three-volume "Dictionary of American Military Biography." His conference presentation was "Military History and Its Fictions."



Frank Wetta looks at antique headgear in "granny's attic" located in the U.S. Cavalry Association library. Robert Smith of Kansas State University said they get one to two requests a year from Hollywood for artifacts to use in films.

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Fort Riley Sports & Recreation

Friday, May 26, 2006

America's Warfighting Center

Page 9

Sports news in brief

Youth fish event slated

The Governor's Youth Fish will be June 3 at Millford Lake in Outlet Park (Gathering Pond), Shelter No. 11, below the Millford Lake dam. This event is a part of the 2006 Kansas Wildlife Service Foundation's Governor's Golf & Fishing Classic Tournament scheduled at Millford Lake June 2-3.

The Youth Fish will be open to the first 100 children who pre-register and are between the ages of 5 and 12. Parents and or guardians are required to attend with the younger children.

The event is free of charge and will consist of a fishing clinic, a fishing derby and a casting contest.

On June 3, check-in will begin at 8:30 a.m. with the clinic starting at 9 a.m. The event will end by noon. Children may be pre-registered by calling the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers office at (785) 238-5714.

Loaner rods and reels will be available for all participants. Bait also will be provided for the fishing derby. Trophies will be awarded to the first and second place finishers in the casting contest for age groups 5-6, 7-8, 9-10 and 11-12.

The Kansas Wildlife Service Foundation will be providing all participants a free rod and reel combo at the conclusion of the event.

For more information, contact Park Ranger Cynthia Dierks at (785) 238-5714 or Cynthia.f.dierks@usace.army.mil.

Outdoor Rec changes hours

Summer hours for the Outdoor Recreation Center will run from May 28 through Sept. 9. Hours of operation will be from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday, Monday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday.

For more information, call Carol Alexander at 239-2249.

Youth fishing tourney set

A youth fishing tournament is planned from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. June 10 at Moon Lake on post. The tournament is open for children age 2 to 12 and teenagers age 13 to 19. A parent must be present while the younger children fish.

Entry fee is \$5 per person. Prizes will be awarded for the largest fish by weight, largest fish by length and largest stringer of fish. The prizes will go to the top three winners in each of the two age categories.

Prizes include a rod and reel, lures and coolers. Each entrant can use no more than two poles. Kansas fishing regulations for length and creel limit apply for the tournament.

Entrants must register by June 8. To register, call 239-2363 or stop by the Outdoor Recreation Center, 9011 Rifle Range Road.

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Golf course open for play

Custer Hill Golf Course is open for play 8 a.m. to dusk Tuesday through Sunday.

For more information call 784-6000.

Biologists band first baby eagles

By **Gibran Suleiman**
Fish and wildlife biologist

Four members of Fort Riley's Conservation Branch met with Dan Mulhern, a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service biologist, May 12 to place leg bands on the first known baby eagles to hatch on post.

The Fort Riley nest is one of 22 nests counted in Kansas in 2006. The Fort Riley pair has nested on Fort Riley in years past, but this year was the first year the eggs hatched. The male adult eagle is a Kansas native banded in a nest at

Lake Clinton in 1999. It is not known where the female was born.

The greatest challenge when banding young eagles in the nest is getting to them. It takes a very experienced climber to reach most eagle nests, and even then, some nests are too dangerously located even for experienced climbers to reach them.

The Fort Riley nest is located in a sycamore tree 75 feet off the ground. Two climbers from Manhattan, Kan., Jesse and Joel Brinker, volunteered their time to come out after work and help out for a good cause.

After getting their ropes set around a branch near the nest, Jesse climbed straight up the rope and gained access to the nest. At that point, the climber placed one of the chicks in a bag and lowered it to awaiting biologists.

Two bands are placed on each eagle. One band is silver and the other one is purple. The purple band indicates the bird is from Kansas. It has an alpha numeric code engraved on it.

Certain measurements were taken before the bird was put back into the nest. Measurements of the



Dan Mulhern, a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service biologist, bands a leg of one of two baby bald eagles born on Fort Riley.

Conservation Branch Photo/Jones

See Eagles, Page 11

Play ball!



Robert Alaniz, shortstop for Co. C, 1st Bn., 13th Armor, catches a fly ball May 18 in the fourth inning as Armandio Santos, a runner for Co. C, 1st Bn., 41st Inf., waits to run home. Santos eventually scored.

Armor batters clobber Infantry

By **Amanda Kim Stairrett**
Staff writer

The bats finally turned for Company C, 1st Battalion, 41st Infantry, but it wasn't enough to stop a power-hitting Company C, 1st Battalion, 13th Armor, team May 18 in National League softball play on post.

The infantrymen scored seven runs in their fourth and final inning of the game, but that was overshadowed by the 12 runs the tankers put on the board in the first inning, the six they scored in the second and the seven they scored in their third and final inning.

Compare that to the infantry's runless first inning where the first three batters

made the first three outs, the two-run second inning and three-run third, and it's apparent where the dueling C companies differed in the 25-12 game.

Five of the Armor teams' players scored every time at bat.

The game started off on a bad note for 1st Bn., 41st Inf., when a runner didn't tag up at second.

He stood on third base as the 1st Bn., 13th Armor's, pitcher lobbed a throw to his second baseman and the runner was declared out.

Steven Cessa, Infantry first baseman, injured his ankle early in the game when he slid into third base. He was called safe, but was carried off the field.

As the infantrymen filed into the dugout

after the game, players shouted out what they needed to work on:

"Pitching!"

"Hitting!"

"Fielding!"

Second baseman Kyle Patterson said the team has played together for about a month and despite the loss, they always have fun when they play.

Because the unit is downsizing, team members were scavenged from all the companies in the battalion in late April, shortstop Roberto Alaniz said.

Despite the collection of players, the team doesn't have enough depth, he said.

What matters, though, is that the players continue to come out, have fun and remain competitive, Alaniz said.



Ryan Christenson, Co. C, 1st Bn., 13th Armor, slides safely into third as Harvey Shaw, 1st Bn., 41st Inf., bobbles and loses control of a throw to him on third base May 18. The Armor team won, 25 to 12.

Post/Stairrett

Sampey takes 3rd win of year

Schumacher, Brown beaten in 1st round

Army News Service

HEBRON, Ohio — Angelle Sampey, who handles the controls of one of the U.S. Army Suzukis, captured her third win of the year in the Pontiac Performance Nationals at National Trail Raceway May 21.

Elsewhere, Sampey's U.S. Army NHRA Racing teammates, Tony "The Sarge" Schumacher and Antron Brown, were both ousted in the first round of eliminations.

Pro stock motorcycles

Sampey, who won the first two races of the season, disposed of Matt Smith in the finals with a sizzling 7.046-second jaunt at 188.52 mph.

Following her 40th career victory, the Louisiana native moved back into the point lead over Matt Hines and Brown, respectively.

"With all of the support that we get from our U.S. Army Soldiers, it's nice that we can perform like this for them," Sampey said. "What's also really exciting is that we kept the point lead, which was the goal coming into the weekend."

With Sampey's three wins and Brown's win in Atlanta the previous weekend, the U.S. Army team is now perfect in 2006.

"That's unbelievable," she added. "We really have a hard-working, dedicated group of guys. They will stop at nothing to win races. And, of course, we hope that translates into a world championship by the end of the season."

Brown, who came into the race weekend as the point leader, was beaten by fifth-place qualifier Matt Guidera in the opening round.

Guidera posted a 7.104-second run at 182.50 mph to Brown's 7.129-second pass at 185.145 mph.

"That was about what we ran in qualifying, which didn't prove to be good enough today," said the New Jersey native. "This wasn't the best of weekends for me, but we'll definitely rebound. This U.S. Army team is on a mission."

Sampey and Brown have a couple of weekends off before rejoining the NHRA tour at Route 66 Raceway in Joliet, Ill., June 8-11, for the CARQUEST Auto

See Racing, Page 11





Sports news briefly

Outdoor staff plans canoeing

Authorized users of the Fort Riley Outdoor Recreation Center can sign up for upcoming canoe trips on the Kansas River.

The trips total 10.3 miles from the U.S. Highway 24 Bridge to St. George. Participants should plan to be gone between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m.

Trips are being planned for June 3 and 17, July 8 and 29 and Aug. 5 and 19.

Cost per person is \$15, which includes rental fees for canoe, paddles and life vest and transportation to and from the Outdoor Recreation Center.

Anyone interested should register at the Outdoor Recreation Center, 9011 Rifle Range Road.

For more information, call 239-2363.

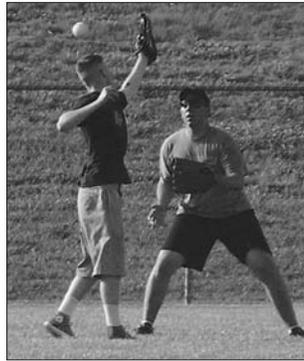
Youth camps scheduled

Fort Riley youth can register to participate in three sports camps this summer.

A basketball camp is scheduled July 17-24, a soccer camp July 31 through Aug. 4 and a volleyball camp Aug. 7-11.

The cost of each camp is \$25 per camper with current Child and Youth Services registration.

For more information, call CYS at 239-4847.



Spec. Gabriel Sluis, HHC, 1st BCT, 1st Inf. Div., reaches to catch a pop-fly ball to left center field as Capt. John Geis backs him up May 17 in a game against Co. B, 1st Bn., 34th Armor. Geis dove on the ground to snag the ball after it slipped from Sluis' glove. HHC lost to Co. B 18-4.

Post/Stairrett

Defense, pitcher, power hitting take heavy toll

By Amanda Kim Stairrett
Staff writer

Outstanding defense, a last-minute pitcher, power hitters and a rocket arm led to Company B, 1st Battalion, 34th Armor's, overwhelming win against Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, May 17 in Fort Riley American League softball play.

First baseman Jason Armstrong said Jay Kavarski's power hitting and Gerald Burford's rocket arm were key factors in the five-inning, 18-4 win.

"Yeah, it's my cannon," Burford, the right-center fielder joked after the game.

More than half of the Armor's runs were scored in the second inning, when all but three players made it around the bases. The team's pitcher, Bruce Siegal, scored every time he batted.

Armstrong said the team

formed a month ago and may be the first organized team event that Co. B has ever had. The team is still new and has to overcome some mental errors and work on covering third base, he said.

"We're still trying to feel positions out on the team," he said. His goal is for the team to get better with each game.

Mark Stairrett, HHC, 1st BCT, left fielder, said his team was brand new and didn't have the veteran experience like other

teams. "We're still young," he said. "We just came together two or three weeks ago."

The team did "all right" and managed to start scoring after a slow start, Stairrett said. The team has to work on catching pop-ups, he said. Several players missed fly balls that would have been easy outs. First baseman Matthew Chase scored half the team's runs.

The 1st BCT team racked up six errors while the Armor team

had three. Ethan Diven, who was at Fort Riley's Softball Complex to support the Armor team, said the Co. B and Co. C teams from 1st Bn., 34th Armor, were giving the games their all even though the Soldiers spent eight hours that day in the sun, preparing their tanks and other equipment for turn-in. He said although the men were "dog tired," they still came out to the softball field to play and give it their all.

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Shaw's Dogs show they're hoop top dogs

Team wins \$1,000 prize

By Amanda Kim Stairrett
Staff writer

Shaw's Dogs defeated the Elite Ballers May 20 to win the Scion Slam 3-on-3 Basketball Tournament at Rally Point and walk away with the \$1,000 first prize.

The Scion Company sponsored the event, which featured the tournament, free throw contest, three-point contest, custom car show and other events for families.

Kevin Thigpen, a member of Shaw's Dogs, attributed his team's domination to the "big man" inside, teammate J.B. Ray. The other players on Shaw's Dogs were Alfranzo Davis and Harvey Shaw.

Thigpen is a Soldier in 2nd Battalion, 70th Armor, and Shaw is a Soldier in the 1st Battalion, 41st Infantry Regiment.

Ray, who another teammate joked was their "Shaq," towered over the Elite Ballers players Derald Jones, LaTavis Walker, Marlon Walker and Mantello Beverley, who split the second-place prize of \$500.

Last year's Scion Slam tournament winners, The Champs, fell

to the Elite Ballers in the semifinals, but defeated D-Block for a third place finish and a \$250 prize.

Jones won the three-point contest and another \$250, sinking four of seven shots to. The Walkers are Soldiers in the 101st Forward Support Battalion. Jones and Beverley are Soldiers in the 331st Signal Company.

Xavier Taylor made nine of 10 shots to win \$100 in the free throw contest.

J.B. Thomas' 2002 Pontiac won the custom car show. Zeb Hall placed second with a 1994 Civic, and Mike Reed placed third with a 2005 XB Scion. Thomas won a \$250 prize, Hall won \$100 and Reed won \$50.

Mid-point in the tournament, D-Block's coach, Meddrick Avera, said his team would take it all. The team's players are Soldiers in Company B, 1st Battalion, 34th Armor, and play on the company softball team.

Better Opportunities For Single Soldiers representatives also were present at the event with a face-painting booth. Visitors also had a chance to test drive a Scion automobile.



LaTavis Walker of the Elite Ballers passes the ball around Shaw's Dogs' J.B. Ray during the Scion Slam 3-on-3 basketball tournament May 20 at Rally Point. Shaw's Dogs defeated the Elite Ballers for the \$1,000 first place prize.

Eagles

continued from page 9

chicklets at Fort Riley indicated one of the chicks is a female and the other is a male. They are expected to fledge from their nest around the first part of June. It is possible the male eaglet will some day return to this general area and to continue the family lineage.

Although the whole process is especially stressful on the parents, there are no serious consequences of banding the chicks when everything goes right.

Many things are done to minimize stress on the adults and chicks. Probably the most important thing is that the whole process occurs quickly and smoothly and that the chicks are handled very delicately.

As children we hear that, if you touch a baby bird in a nest, the parents will abandon the nest. While it is true a bird might abandon the nest if it is constantly disturbed by people, a one time event like the banding would not be enough to cause the parents to leave something in which they have invested so much time and energy.

It is important that the eagles continue to have seclusion, so the area around the nest will remain closed for recreation until the chicks have fledged. Entry into a closed area on Fort Riley can result in a charge of criminal trespass.

The recovery of the bald eagle is a true Endangered Species Act success story. Today, bald eagle numbers have made an impressive recovery and they are expected to be removed from the endangered species listing in the near future. Once removed, it still will receive protection from several other federal laws.

Want more information?

Anyone with questions concerning eagles on Fort Riley can call a member of the Conservation Branch at (785) 239-6211 during normal business hours.



Britney McGary paints a snake on 5-year-old Adrianna Vargas' arm during the Scion Slam event May 20 at Rally Point. McGary is a Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers representative from the 610th BSB.

Racing

continued from page 9

House fill ad

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Fort Riley Community Life

Community news briefly

Parent program to host class

The New Parent Support will host an infant care class. The six two-hour sessions will cover Pregnancy: The first three trimesters June 8, Mommy and Me: From birth - what a newborn looks like June 15, Nurturing a Healthy Family June 22, Making Adjustments and Building Support June 29, Growth and Development July 6 and Infant Safety July 13.

Class time will be 10 a.m. to noon each date at the Soldier and Family Support Center, Building 7264.

Free childcare will be provided on a first-come, first-served basis for the first 20 children. Call 239-9435 to register.

Fort Riley looks for teachers

Instructors are being recruited for kindermusic, violin lessons, drum lessons, chess, cosmetology, skateboarding. Web page design, profession DJ and horseback riding.

Other areas are possible for consideration.

These positions are contract paid employment. Applications can be picked up at Building 7434.

For more information, call 239-4723 or send e-mail to andersnr@riley.army.mil

Commissary slates fun fest

A Family Fun Fest is planned at the Fort Riley commissary from noon to 7 p.m. July 15. Free food, games, live entertainment and giveaways are planned.

Camp sign-up under way

School Age Services will conduct summer camps for kindergartners through fifth-graders beginning May 30.

The 11 one-week sessions will contain fun-filled activities, arts and crafts, swimming, games, bowling, skating, field trips, computers, math, science and more.

Registration is under way.

For more information or to register, call the Central Registration Office at 239-4847.

Colleges plan to attend 'fair'

A college fair is being planned from 3 to 6 p.m. June 3 at the Fort Riley Teen Center, Building 5800.

Colleges expected to attend include Barton County Community College, Central Texas Community College, Kansas State University, Upper Iowa University and other local schools.

The fair will provide high school seniors and juniors information about each school's programs.

For more information, call 239-9222.

Stay In Step with Fort Riley

See what's happening on Fort Riley cable Channel 2 every day at 6:30 a.m., 8 a.m., noon, 6 p.m. and 10 p.m.

Income limit hike helps home buyers

USDARD

Special to the Post

TOPEKA, Kan. - U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Development State Director Chuck Banks announced May 23 that the adjusted annual income limits for the agency's Guaranteed and Direct Rural Housing Loan programs have increased.

The adjustments of the income eligibility limits will allow more individuals and families, including those at Fort Riley, who are interested in home ownership to qualify for these loan programs. In the Guaranteed Rural Housing Program, the income limits increased 2.7 percent for most counties in Kansas. For a family of four, the new

adjusted annual income limit is \$68,550. The adjusted annual income limits are higher in larger metro area counties.

In figuring an applicant's adjusted annual income, deductions of \$480 per dependent child are allowed, and if both spouses work, child care expenses also are deductible.

"So a family of four, with two

children, earning \$74,000 and having child care expenses of \$5,000 would have an adjusted annual income of \$68,040 and still qualify for a Guaranteed Rural Housing loan," Banks noted.

Guaranteed Rural Housing loans are made by approved commercial lenders and provide home purchase financing up to 102 per-

cent of appraised value without requiring a down payment or monthly mortgage insurance.

The agency also provides direct home loans for those with lower incomes, and those income limits also have increased for most counties in Kansas.

For more information, call (785) 271-2722 or visit www.rurdev.usda.gov/ks/offices.htm.

Asian heritage

Observance promotes cultural awareness

By Jennifer Thacker
19th PAD

The sound of beating drums filled the room as costumed dancers danced to their rhythm to tell a story while entertaining the audience attending the Asian Pacific Islander Heritage Observance May 17 at Riley's Conference Center.

Fort Riley's Equal Opportunity office sponsored the program. "We want to promote awareness and education of the Asian Pacific culture," said Master Sgt. Larry Caldwell, senior EO advisor for Fort Riley.

The observance is scheduled every May.

The Cambodian American Community Development, Inc., provided the dancing and music.

"The organization is twofold," said Karen Bachus, the organization's vice president. "We are a social service program and a bridge between the Cambodian American and American community."

"Khmer, Cambodian music is an important aspect of Cambodian life and culture. It is a significant component in religious and traditional ceremonies, such as weddings or temple celebrations," Bachus explained to the audience.

Dancing is an integral part of the Cambodian culture. Like many cultures, Cambodian dancing is used to tell stories and entertain. The Cambodian American Community Development, Inc., brought about 35 dancers to perform.

See Celebration, Page 14



Brig. Gen. Dana Pittard, 24th Inf. Div. (Mech) assistant division commander for maneuver, dances with members of The Long Drum group and Cambodian Dance Troup May 17 during the Asian Pacific Islander Heritage Month celebration at Riley's. Dancers selected audience members to participate.



A member of Cambodian American Community Development, Inc., tells a story in dance at the Fort Riley observance of Asian Pacific Islander Heritage Month May 17.

Senate bill may reduce calling costs

By Sarah Ross Little
Sen. Pat Roberts' office

WASHINGTON - U.S. Sen. Pat Roberts (R-Kan.) has announced his support for the Call Home Act, bipartisan legislation to reduce the cost of calling home for military personnel stationed overseas.

"When stationed abroad," Roberts said, "our men and women in uniform need to remain connected to their families. Calls home are critical for morale and enable the Soldier, Sailor, Airman or Marine to better concentrate and fulfill their mission."

The Call Home Act, S. 2653, introduced by Sen. Ted Stevens (R-Alaska) would require the Federal Communications Commission to evaluate and analyze the costs of calls to and from official duty stations, including vessels in port or under way; evaluate methods of reducing rates, including deployment of new technology, such as Voice Over Internet Protocol, VOIP, or other internet protocol technology; encourage phone companies to adopt flexible billing procedures and policies; and seek agreements with foreign governments to reduce international surcharges on phone calls.

"This legislation is one of many common sense initiatives to improve the quality of life for our military families," Roberts said

Guard against chigger bites

By Bill Wildman
Health Technician

It would be pretty safe to say that not very many creatures on earth can cause as much torment for its size as the tiny chigger. If you have been to the field at Fort Riley in the summer, you or someone you know have found out just how bad the intense itch caused by this critter can be.

Kansas is home to more than 40 species of chigger mites, but lucky for us only a few species attack man. Mites in the tiny larva stage attack Soldiers, hikers, fishermen and picnickers and feed on a wide variety of snakes, birds, turtles and small mammals.

Chiggers are related to ticks and spiders, and like ticks, they pass through four stages of development: Egg, larva, nymph



FOR YOUR HEALTH

and adult.

In the adult stage, chiggers are often seen as a bright red, small mite crawling in the soil. As adults, the chiggers are harmless to us as they search for other insects and their eggs. They are known to dine on mosquito eggs in the soil as well as other mites.

Adult chiggers over-winter slightly below the soil and then, as the soil starts to warm in the spring, the females become active. The female will lay up to 15 eggs per day in vegetation as the soil temperature reaches into the 60s. Multiple generations occur in warmer climates each

season. On Fort Riley, probably two or three generations develop each season. The life cycle is 50 to 75 days.

While Mr. and Mrs. Chigger seem to be nice folks in the bug world, they produce problem children. In early summer as the eggs hatch, the six-legged larvae climb onto vegetation where they can snag a passing host. They prefer grass stems, shrubbery, sticks and leaves in damp, shaded spots near the top of objects but also close to the soil.

They are alerted to the approach of a suitable host by carbon dioxide output, odor and

See Chiggers, Page 16

Faculty surprises principal with VIP

Former Coach Snyder tells students about setting goals

By Amanda Kim Stairrett
Staff writer

Principal Becky Lay has a purple wooden sign hanging in her office at Fort Riley Elementary School that reads, "In Snyder We Trust." She doesn't miss Kansas State football games. She graduated from Kansas State. She is Kansas State. She bleeds purple.

The school's staff thought she was much more, so they got former Kansas State football coach Bill Snyder to tell her exactly what they thought of her.

Lay was told a VIP was visiting Fort Riley Elementary School May 18 and was surprised when she walked into the school gym

amidst cheers and applause from her students to find Snyder there already. The students continued to clap and cheer Lay's smile beamed over them as Snyder hugged one of his biggest fans.

The former coach presented Lay with a certificate of appreciation from the school's staff.

"It is just such a treat for our boss who treats us so well and makes this a great place to work," said Michelle Haug, a parent resource coordinator.

Lay said the visit was "very sneaky, very surprising and warming," and there was no person better to come than Snyder.

"When I think of myself, I

See Snyder, Page 15





Members of the Cambodian American Community Development, Inc.'s, The Long Drum group and Cambodian Dance Troop perform a courting dance May 17 during the Asian Pacific Islander Heritage Month celebration at Riley's.

Post/Stairrett

Celebration continued from page 13

During Cambodian New Year celebrations, dancers of the court tradition enact sacred legends meant as offerings, Bachus said. "If the deities are pleased with the presentation, it is believed they will bestow blessings on Cambodia and her people. Villagers perform rites which include dance in propitiation of ancestral spirits at select times throughout the year. As part of a wedding story, guests of all ages dance in circular patterned social dances," she said. The first dance the group performed was the Chhaiy Yam. "This dance is a community event, which is performed for many occasions," Kelly Vang, the

dance group's coordinator, said. "The Chhaiy Yam drummers and dancers help to create a feeling of joy and togetherness." The second dance, "Robam Phuong Neary, is a classical dance that describes the beauty of the Khmer women and brings out everything that is true beauty," Vang said. The final dance, "Bong Eur Bong Khamao, was a remix put together by the dancers," she said. During the dance, the dancers walked off stage and picked out members of the audience to join them. Some of the members included Maj. Gen. Dennis Hardy, commanding general of the 24th

Infantry Division (Mech) and Fort Riley; U.S. Army Garrison Command Sgt. Maj. James Noble; Brig. Gen. Dana Pittard, assistant division commander for maneuver; USAG Commander Col. Thomas Smith; Chief of Staff Col. William Perkins; and Col. Lee Staab, assistant division commander for support. The observance concluded with Lt. Col. Robert Foutz, 24th Inf. Div. (Mech) equal opportunity officer, presenting Phen Chan, president of the Cambodian American Community Development, Inc., with a plaque thanking the Wichita, Kan.-based organization for their participation.

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Is your group or organization doing something fun, interesting or worthwhile? The Post staff wants to tell the community what is happening. Call the editor at 239-8854. Let's talk.

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Post/Stairrett

A Fort Riley Elementary School student asks Bill Snyder, former Kansas State University football coach, a question May 18 following a talk he gave about setting goals and making correct decisions. Snyder visited the school to present principal Becky Lay with a certificate of appreciation from the school's staff.

Snyder continued from page 13

think of myself as representing Fort Riley Elementary. So what a recognition for Fort Riley Elementary that Mr. Snyder would be able to come and share his thoughts," she said.

Snyder spoke to students about

setting goals and making good decisions, using his daughter as an example of someone who made a bad decision to get into a car with a driver who had been drinking.

After his talk, Snyder answered questions from curious grade schoolers, most wanting to know about his daughter or football. He said he wanted to give the students tools to make them better leaders so they could live productive lives.

Snyder said he was impressed at how the students applauded Lay when she walked into the gym for her surprise. They are really "caring young people" who cared about their principal, he said.

Lay said she respected Snyder's leadership, and he was a great role model, showing how one person could make a difference in a young person's life.

Faculty at Fort Riley Elementary School decided to honor Lay because of her outstanding leadership and friendship.

"She's not a boss, she's a friend," said Cheryl Suber, a teacher's aide.

Lay created a supportive family environment at the school whether a staff member was dealing with an illness or dealing with the death of a spouse, Haug said. She recently returned from a six-month absence at the school because of her battle with cancer. The staff and students were supportive during her illness, which provided "great therapy," Haug said.

It's not just a school, but also a special environment.

"As soon as you walk in the door, it just puts a smile on your face," she said.



Post/Stairrett

Bill Snyder, former Kansas State University football coach, signs autographs in FRES Principal Becky Lay's office May 18.

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Community news briefly

Stories feature things that go

Trains, buses, balloons – all “Things That Go!” – will be the story time topics in May at the Fort Riley Library. All Fort Riley families are invited to attend story times at 1:30 p.m. or 4 p.m. every Saturday.

“Thomas the Tank Engine” and his friends will wrap up “Things That Go” month on May 27. Thomas is a favorite with pre-schoolers all over the world.

The Post Library is located in Building 5306 on Custer Hill. Operating hours are 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday, and noon to 5 p.m. Sunday.

For more information, call 239-5305.

Teen Center lists activities

May 27 – 6 to 9 p.m., family pot luck and parent advisory meeting

June 2 – 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., field trip to Topeka zoo and mall

For more information, call the Teen Center at 239-9222.

Support Center lists activities

The Soldier and Family Support Center, Building 7264 on Normandy Drive, will host the following activities:

June 1 – 6:30 to 8 p.m., Point of Contact class for new Points of Contact volunteers within the Family Readiness Group. We will discuss resources available on Fort Riley and how to utilize them to help your families. Pre-registration is required. Free childcare will be available. Call 239-9435 to register.

Parents' group to meet

The Parent Advisory Council at Fort Riley meets the first Thursday of each month from 4 to 5 p.m. in the training room at Building 6620. The next meeting is June 1.

Meeting agendas include program updates and parent information. For more information about the council, call 239-9850.

Crafts center lists activities

May 28 – 1 to 2:30 p.m., scrap-booking get together

May 30 – 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., beginning sewing

May 31 – noon to 1 p.m., make it, take it

Open hours for using the Arts and Crafts Center's wood shop, ceramics studio, matting and framing studio, computer lab, photography lab and doing stained glass, sewing, quilting, basket weaving and leather work are:

Monday and Tuesday from 1 to 8:30 p.m.

Wednesday from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Saturday and Sunday from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

A schedule of upcoming classes is available at the center and in the Morale, Welfare and Recreation Guide.

For more information, call the Arts and Crafts Center at 239-9205.

Child car seat checks offered

Anyone wanting a child's car seat checked by a safety expert should call 239-2514 to make an appointment.

Appointments are available from 1 to 3 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays at Building 407, Pershing Court.

Children younger than 4 are required to sit in car seats.

Those 4 and older must wear seat belts. Child safety advocates say children 4 to 7 years old should sit in booster seats that allow seat belts to fit them properly.

Chiggers

continued from page 13

other stimulating factors.

As chigger larvae roam around on us, they go unnoticed because they are almost invisible without magnification. They are only about 1/150 of an inch in diameter. The preferred locations for a meal on us are parts of the body where clothing fits tight over the skin, such as our belt line, waistline, under socks or where skin is tender or wrinkled, such as the ankles, the backs of the knees, armpits or in the groin.

Chigger larvae do not burrow in our skin, nor do they take a blood meal. They bite or pierce the skin and inject a host of powerful digestive enzymes that cause the skin cells to break down and liquefy.

As the cells break down, our immune system walls off the area where the chigger injected its saliva. This forms a hardened tube, called a stylostome, through which the chigger feeds; just like a straw. If nothing disturbs its meal, it will feed for a few days. After it's full, it drops off the host, then transforms into the eight-legged nymph stage that in time will mature into an adult chigger.

Chiggers are not known to transmit diseases in the United States.

The treatment of chigger bites probably has as many homespun remedies as any medical condition known. With severe itching, most anything is worth a try and amputation may cross one's mind in fits of desperation.

Scratching is a no-no because it can cause secondary infections; however, I will admit to having thought of using a wire brush. For temporary relief from chigger bites, apply ointments such as benzocaine, hydrocortisone, calamine lotion and others recommended by your medical doctor or pharmacist. The sooner you start treatment, the better.

AAFES will match prices

AAFES

Dallas – Since they were established in 1895, the military exchanges' mission has essentially been the same: provide necessary merchandise and services to the military.

AAFES' “We'll Match It!” effort works in two ways. First, if customers see a price differential of less than \$10, they can tell the cashier, who will match it on the spot. Customers who report a price difference of greater than \$10 need only bring a current local competitor's ad to receive the reduced price.

In either case, the competitor's item must be identical to the item in the AAFES store.

“AAFES is committed to having low prices,” said AAFES' Chief of Corporate Communications Lt. Col. Debra Pressley. “We'll Match It' is simply our last line of defense. After AAFES conducts national surveys and associates from the store level compare local prices, the customer has this program to make sure no one missed anything.”

Except for the Exchange Catalog and aafes.com, stores cannot accept challenges from any catalog or Web site.

Want more information?

If you have questions about chiggers or arthropods of medical significance, call Preventive Medicine Service at 239-7231.

For each chigger bite you receive, you may have had hundreds of chiggers that did not get a meal. A shower soon after exposure can help remove them.

Prevention of the bite is the best way to deal with the chigger. Mowing weeds and thick vegetation to reduce shade and moisture will help reduce the chigger population. But, before you go out to mow weeds, head out to the field for training, venture to the park for a picnic or head the fishing ponds or any other area

that looks like prime chigger habitat, protect yourself.

The Army has a system to protect troops in the field from arthropods of medical significance: A properly worn field uniform, permethrin treatment on the uniform and Deet on the skin. For the rest of us, Deet works well for protection from chiggers.

Apply the repellents to the skin and clothing, especially on uncovered arms and legs, and to clothing openings at the cuffs, waistband and tops of the socks. Check the label for formulas made for children. Follow the label directions.

Do not wear pet flea collars. This is dangerous to your health.

Permethrin treatment on clothing is available at hardware and outdoor sports stores and works great for protection against chiggers, ticks, mosquitoes and biting flies. Again, follow the product label.

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Students enjoy day at lake for learning water safety



Fort Riley Middle School eighth-graders enjoy canoeing at Breakneck Lake during an all-day trip May 19. The trip was organized to reward students who completed the school's water safety program. The program teaches canoeing and swimming. It won an award of merit from the Water Safety Congress International Boating and Water Safety Summit May 3. About 200 kids complete the program each year at FRMS.

Zach Birchmeier fishes at Breakneck Lake during an all-day canoe trip for Fort Riley Middle School eighth-graders May 19. Janet Hoskins, a physical education teacher and athletic director at Fort Riley Middle School, said she was surprised how many kids didn't know how to swim. The program gave them alternatives to typical sports such as basketball and football.

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Travel & Fun in Kansas

Leisure time ideas

At the movies:

Doors open at 6:30 p.m. Tickets cost \$3.50 for adults and \$1.75 for children 11 and under. Children under the age of 5 are free except during children's matinees or expected sell-outs.

May 26 - Ice Age 2 (PG) 90 Min

May 27 - Lucky Number Slevin (R) 110 Min

May 28 - Benchwarmers (PG-13) 85 Min

For more information, call 784-2226 or 784-2640.

Kansas City:

What: Great American Greyhound Futurity. Greyhounds from across America compete in the World's Richest Greyhound Race. One of the premier events in the greyhound industry. The Great American Greyhound Futurity has been recognized by the Guinness Book of Records as being the World's Richest Greyhound Race.

When: May 29

Where: 9700 Leavenworth Road, The Woodlands

Phone: (913) 299-9797 or (800) 695-7223

Web site: <http://www.woodlandskc.com>

...

What: The Rhythm & Ribs Jazz Festival. This festival blends two of Kansas City's richest traditions, jazz and barbecue, creating an exciting recipe for family fun in the 18th & Vine Jazz District. National and local blues, jazz gospel and R&B artists perform all weekend long.

When: Father's Day Weekend, June 16 from 4 to 11 p.m., June 17 from 11 a.m. to 11 p.m., and June 18 from noon to 6 p.m.

Where: Parade Park and the Jay McShann Pavilion at the American Jazz Museum in the Historic 18th & Vine District

Admission: Advance tickets, available through Ticketmaster and through the American Jazz Museum box office at (816) 474-6262, are \$15 for adults, \$6 for children ages 6-12 years old, and children 5 and under are free. Special weekend and family passes are available.

Web site: www.kcrhythm-mandribs.com

Phone: 816-474-8463

Bennington:

What: Lions Club PRCA Rodeo. Annual rodeo features specialty acts and traditional rodeo events.

When: June 1-3

Where: Bennington Rodeo Arena

Phone: (785) 488-3344

El Dorado:

What: 1950s Car Show. The 1950s annual car show brings people from all over to display their vintage cars.

When: June 3

Where: 383 E. Central, Butler County History Center

Phone: (316) 321-9333

Salina:

What: Kansas State Square Dance Convention. Square dancers from across Kansas will "dosey-doe" for two big days. The annual convention is open to the public.

When: June 2-3

Where: 800 The Midway, Bicentennial Center

Phone: (785) 826-7200

Web site: <http://www.bicentennial.org>

Kistler exhibits 'Tools in Motion'

Kistler Beach Museum Special to the Post

MANHATTAN, Kan. - As the Marianna Kistler Beach Museum of Art at Kansas State University undergoes construction of a 17,000-square-foot expansion, the museum will feature an exhibition exploring a relevant subject. "Tools in Motion" opens June 3.

"Tools in Motion" is a traveling version of "Tools in Art: The Hechinger Collection," which encompasses the collection of late hardware-industry pioneer John Hechinger Sr. The exhibition is circulated by International Arts and Artists.

Hechinger began collecting art that highlighted the family business in 1978. As the collection grew, Hechinger realized he had tapped into a significant subfield of art.

Artists have represented tools in their work since prehistoric times, but in the last century, tools entered the mainstream of art-making.

The Hechinger Collection contains about 375 works by more than 250 leading modern and contemporary masters and emerging artists.

"Tools in Motion" features the two series that launched the collection:

The high-contrast kodaliths by

celebrated designer Ivan Chermayeff and "Tool Box," a suite of silkscreen prints by distinguished artist Jim Dine.

The kodaliths are black-and-white photographs with no halftones, refining the hardware to near abstraction. Dine's prints create a playful distortion of art and life through contrast of real and invented objects.

The kodaliths and "Tool Box" illustrate what Hechinger called the twin pillars of his collection: Morph and magic.

"Tools in Motion" takes viewers on a journey to a world where anything seems possible. Everyday tools take on life and invite the imagination to visit a place

where pliers become wriggling fish, shovels have dreams and nails secure the earth's contents together.

"Tools in Motion" explores the combining of organic and inorganic," said Lorne Render, director of the Beach Museum of Art. "With the building construction under way, what could be a more appropriate subject than tools?"

"This exhibition is a fantastic journey to a place where tools become more than everyday objects," Render said.

"Tools in Motion" was curated by the Lancaster Museum of Art in Lancaster, Pa. The exhibition will be on display at the Beach Museum through Aug. 27.

If you go:

The Kistler Beach Museum of Art is on the south-east corner of the Kansas State University campus at 14th Street and Anderson Avenue.

When the museum reopens June 3, hours will be 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesdays through Fridays and 1 to 5 p.m. Sundays.

For more information, call the museum at (785) 532-7718.

Kansas safari



An African zebra kicks at an attacking hyena in one of the wildlife dioramas filling the Rolling Hills Wildlife Adventure Museum near Salina, Kan. The 64,000-square-foot building houses dioramas featuring animals in natural settings from almost every continent. Post/Heronemus

Explore world in climate-controlled comfort

By Mike Heronemus Editor

The Rolling Hills wildlife museum offers visitors a pathway through several continents of wildlife familiar and unusual, and seemingly alive and within reach of the brave explorer.

The unique pavilion of stuffed animals inhabiting detailed dioramas just six miles west of Salina, Kan., a short distance off Interstate 70 allows visitors to walk peacefully along a paved trail inside the climate-controlled 64,000-square-foot building while viewing at leisure more than 600 animals posed in natural-appearing habitat.

Don't forget to look up, because the trees are full of birds and monkeys of all kinds.

Museum Director and Curator Bob Brown said the natural history dioramas include 260 species of animals, some that visitors most likely have not seen before.

Jack Hanna, well-known wildlife enthusiast participated in the museum's opening May 11, 2005, and said he had only seen some of the animals once.

Hanna's words tumbled over themselves as he tried to explain the visual wonder visitors would experience walking through the museum.

"I'm speechless," he said. "I've been to a lot of nature museums throughout

the world but I've very rarely seen anything like (it). As I walked through here I saw where I've been the past 25 years. People who go through here can get a feel for what the world is like."

Unlike other natural history museums that separate visitors from diorama displays with large glass windows, the Rolling Hills Wildlife Adventure Museum shunned the glass to let visitors feel closer to the animals they are seeing, Brown said.

Stepping through an arched entryway, museum visitors immediately find themselves between two prides of lions. One lounges on the left-hand side; the other attacks two zebras on the right-hand side. Both prides are frozen in the act of doing whatever it is they are doing just a few feet from the gawking spectators.

The lions keep their roars to themselves, but a little farther ahead, around a curve in the trail, an elephant trumpets. Overhead, just about everywhere, birds chirp and whistle noisily. A breeze rustles leaves growing on make-believe trees appearing so true to life that Hanna commended the museum's staff on the detailed research portrayed in each diorama.

Visitors can pause at a lagoon and listen to a native man and wife talk about the animals and life supported by that area as the elephant trumpets again and the woman expresses concern about

If you go:

Admission: Adults (zoo or museum) \$8.95; adults (zoo and museum) \$15.95; children under 3 free; children 3-12 (zoo or museum) \$4.95; children 3-12 (zoo and museum) \$7.95; seniors 65 and older (zoo or museum) \$7.95; seniors (zoo and museum) \$13.95

Hours of operation: 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily
For more information, call (785) 827-9488 or visit www.rollinghillswildlife.com on the Web.

predators being close by whenever the elephant raises its voice.

From Africa, the walking safari passes beneath a stone arch onto the plains and forests of North America, listening to a pair of Indians talking about their life on the prairie while two prairie chickens fight and a rattlesnake starts to coil as a four-legged varmint noses a little too close for comfort.

Farther on, a miner has deserted his pan by a stream even though it contains a huge yellow nugget. Across the stream, only a couple of arm's lengths away, a huge bear eyes all the strangers walking by.

Around the corner, a couple of old-timers play cards on a saloon porch while raccoons watch from the roof above and a family of skunks skeddaddles from a hiding place beneath the wooden

walk to some nearby brush.

On the opposite side of the trail, Eskimos are about to kill a walrus. A little farther along, the visitor passes through Scandinavia on one side and China on the other.

The final stop on the walk around the world takes museum visitors to a street in India, where they can listen to a charmer talk about his life and the cobra he eventually entices from beneath the lid of a tall woven basket.

It's been a quick trip, but one that will have to be taken again. "You can't possibly see everything in an hour or just one trip," Hanna said about the extensive displays. Brown also promised that the museum's acquisition of more than 1,700 stuffed animals will allow the museum to change some of the displays every few months.

Walking tour features historic Abilene architecture

Special to the Post

ABILENE, Kan. - In celebration of National Preservation Month this month, the Arts Council

of Dickinson County presents an Architectural Sleuthing Tour May 27 that will feature the historic commercial buildings in downtown Abilene.

This walking tour will allow participants the opportunity to examine the facades of downtown Abilene businesses.

The tour will conclude at a

building where participants will be asked to use their experience to determine the style and probable age of the structure.

Tours will begin at the arts

council office, 207 NW Third St., at 8:30, 10 and 11:30 a.m.

Tickets are \$6 and are available at the arts council office and the day of the tours.

